

IN THE CANADIAN PATENT OFFICE

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PATENT COOPERATION TREATY APPLICATION

Re: Applicant: Magna International Inc.
Application No.: PCT/IB 2004/002528
Filed: 06 August 2004
Priority Date: 12 August 2003
METHOD OF LASER WELDING COATED MEMBERS
Inventor: Hill
Our Ref: 703306PCT

2 March 2005

TO: International Preliminary Examining Authority
Commissioner of Patents
Canadian Patent Office
Box PCT
Ottawa-Gatineau
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ATT: Huynh, Hoan

BY FACSIMILE AND REGISTERED MAIL

AMENDMENTS

Kindly amend claim '1 as follows:

1. A method of laser welding a plurality of coated metal sheets comprising the steps of:
providing coated sheets of metal having opposed first and second surfaces;
creating a raised region on at least one of the coated sheets, the raised region formed on the first surface and wherein the second surface remains continuous and uninterrupted;
juxtaposing the coated sheets to introduce a gap therebetween, said gap defined by said raised region;
applying a laser beam forming a laser weld wherein gases produced during the forming of the laser weld escape via the [at least one embossment] gap.

Kindly enter the following new claims:

4. The method of laser welding a plurality of coated metal sheets according to Claim 2 wherein said step of creating a raised region comprises punching an array of embossments.
5. The method of laser welding a plurality of coated metal sheets according to Claims 2 and